

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Latvian SSR)

REPORT

SUBJECT Port of Ventspils

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This is UNEVALUATED

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-2-

4. The civilian population of Ventspils made a good impression. They were plainly but cleanly dressed and appeared well fed. The state-owned shops offered all kinds of commodities. No military patrols were seen on the streets in the daytime, but crew members stated that they saw military patrols after nightfall. The ship's cook, who lost his way, talked to a policeman and managed to make it clear to him that he wished to be accompanied to the ship. The policeman accompanied him to the gangway but did not accept the cigarette he offered.
5. Many soldiers, most of them youths about 20 years old, were seen on the streets. Only a few ratings or senior soldiers were among them. They wore either pale red black-bordered shoulderboards or black red-bordered shoulderboards. Many soldiers who were on their way to the railroad station, carried small cardboard cases, and appeared to be on Sunday leave. About as many naval personnel as soldiers were on the streets. Many navy men were carrying skates or skis on their way from or to places outside the town.
6. Harbor facilities included a propellerless steam-operated floating crane with a lifting capacity of about 25 tons, one tugboat of about 500 HP, and one tugboat of about 1,500 HP. The latter also served as an icebreaker. This new tugboat was [redacted] was equipped with an automatic towing winch.

Legent to Sketch of Ventspils Harbor on Page 4.

1. Road bridge.
2. Concrete quay, about 250 meters long and about 1.75 meters above water at mean tide, protected by vertical and horizontal wooden beams. Although the pilot stated that the water at this spot was 20 feet deep, a ship which drew 18.5 feet touched bottom when the water dropped one foot below mean water, and was not afloat again until four hours later.
3. [redacted]
4. Five new Stalin-type cranes for handling bulk goods. These cranes had a strong, sturdy substructure and a long strutted jib with an outreach of 25 meters with full load, and a lifting capacity of five tons. The ship took on 2,675 tons of coal with one of these cranes in 20 hours.
5. Stationary 40-ton cranes.
6. Cold storage house.
7. Two old gantry cranes with fixed jibs, mounted on tracks.
8. [redacted] merchant ship, which unloaded frozen meat into the cold storage house.
9. Three groups of barracks installations serving as quarters for Soviet naval units.
10. Prohibited area surrounded by a wall three meters high.
11. Searchlight mounted on a wooden scaffold about six meters high. The searchlight swept the harbor at irregular intervals during the night.
12. Ferry.
13. Road from ferry to town. It was impossible to leave the road near the harbor, as byroads were blocked by barriers.
14. Sentry-manned wooden watchtowers.

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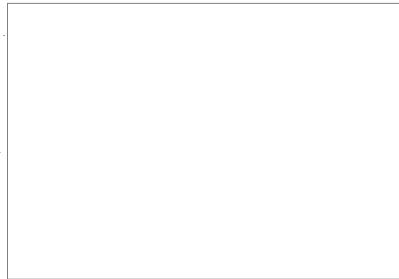
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-3-

15. Grain elevator in operation.
16. Berth of a Soviet steamer of about 2,000 DWT.
17. Berths for Soviet naval vessels.
18. Two jetty lights, burning and showing the correct characteristics.
19. Numerous new dwelling houses.
20. Town of Ventspils.

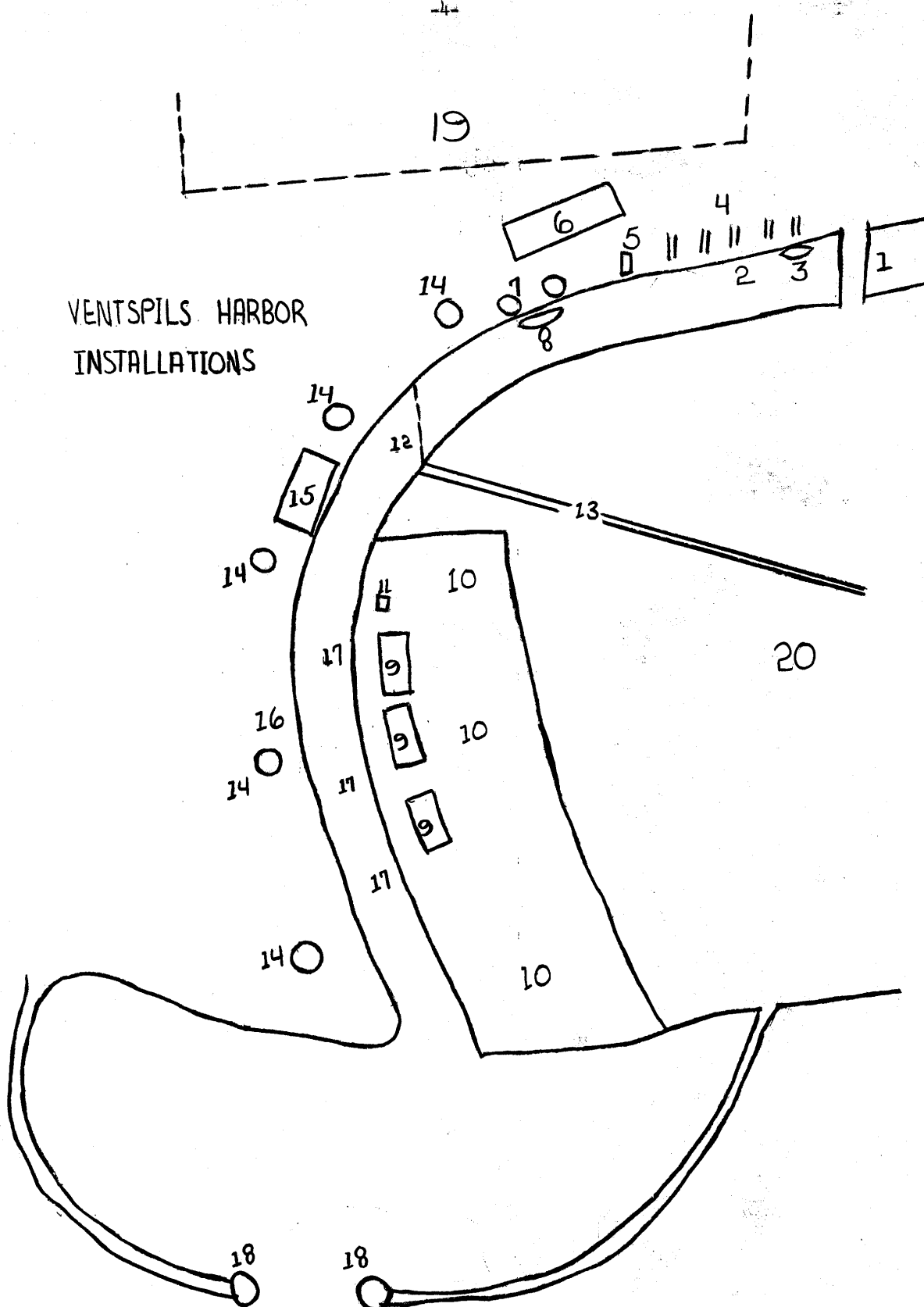


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